Congratulations Class of 2018!

Jeffrey Arroyo, MD
Christine Chon, MD
Ruby Gonzalez, MD
Gloria Lu, MD
Catherine Nguyen, MD
Linh Nguyen, MD
Andrew Nobe, MD
Mahsa Rezaei, MD
James Suchy, MD

Happenings

Thank you Dr. Esther Ho for your strong leadership and outstanding service to the Department of Family Medicine! We will miss you!

Thank you Dr. Giron Yasser for your incredible service to PRIME-LC and to the Department of Family Medicine! We miss you!

Congratulations to Drs. Christine Chon, Catherine Nguyen, Jeffrey Arroyo, Roger Liu, John Hann, and Baotran Vo for welcoming babies!

Congratulations to Dr. Esther Ho and Dr. Steve Tam for winning ARIISE awards!

Congratulations Dr. Jeanine Gore for being inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society!

Congratulations to Dr. Maria Kim for receiving a scholarship to attend the 2018 Family Medicine Advocacy Summit (FMAS) in Washington, D.C.!

Congratulations to Dr. Timothy Lee for his election as President of the Housestaff Safety Officers!

Congratulations to Joana Godoy for receiving the Jackie Durrett Scholarship from the Association of Family Medicine Administration (AFMA)!

Congratulations Dr. David Kilgore for receiving the first annual UCI Award for Outstanding Engaged Teaching Faculty! We are lucky to have you on our team!

Congratulations to Dr. James Suchy for being selected to receive the Family Medicine Leads Emerging Leader Institute Leadership Project Award for his ResourceMD App!
Dear UCI Family Medicine Faculty, Residents, Staff and Graduates,

Greetings! I had the pleasure of joining UC Irvine this January after many rewarding years at the University of Wisconsin (UW). I relish the discovery phase of a settling into a new place. These first months have included a whirlwind of activities and meetings with faculty, staff, residents and leaders of UCI Health, and exploration of beautiful state parks, trails and beaches. I meet amazing people, discover new places, and learn more about our fantastic programs every day. It seems as if I’ve struck gold!

Raised in Indiana and Pakistan, I continue to reap benefits from my bi-cultural background. My medical education began at Indiana University when only 10% of our class was women, family medicine was only available as a senior elective, and there were no opportunities for community or global outreach. I was fortunate to match into UW Family Medicine under the leadership of Dr. Eugene Farley, one of the visionary founders of family medicine in the US. Dr. Farley and colleagues allowed me to extend my residency to four years due to the birth of our third child. They enabled me to pursue my first global health experience training village health workers in rural Uganda. This seminal experience fueled my passion to for family medicine as a vehicle to promote the health of disadvantaged patients, families and communities. As the mother of four marvelous (adult) children and three grand-children, I owe a deep debt of gratitude to family members and colleagues who have supported me every step along the way.

UCI Family Medicine faculty, staff and residents attracted my attention because of their demonstrated commitment to providing outstanding health care and educational programs. Our clinics in Santa Ana, Anaheim, Orange and Irvine provide comprehensive primary health care services for a rainbow of people from diverse backgrounds, with an emphasis on caring for people who have experienced social and economic disadvantages. Our educational programs include outreach to youth, medical students, residents, fellows, community members and leaders. Faculty are leading efforts to promote health and improve the management of chronic diseases, improve access to reproductive health services, promote physical activity through sports medicine, provide outreach to children, people who are homeless, the elderly and more. We’re engaged in exciting research and outreach initiatives to promote health equity, clinical services and population health. We’re fortunate to have many dedicated volunteer faculty who serve as teachers and role models for our students and residents. Skilled staff members work diligently on the front lines and behind the scenes to ensure the highest quality of clinical, educational and research programs. We’re proud of our residents, and look forward to welcoming nine new residents who will join us in June.

Please join me in extending our appreciation to Dr. Esther Ho who served as our residency program director for four years. Special thanks to Dr. Emily Dow who served as acting chair for more than three years. She will serve as our new residency program director beginning in July. Through their dedicated efforts, Drs. Ho and Dow have attracted the highest caliber of family physicians who are dedicated to our mission. The UCI Department of Family Medicine and Division of Geriatrics is indeed a gold mine of opportunity! We have important work ahead as we continue our outstanding programs, build on our strong foundation and consider future growth. We would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact Mel Brown, our office manager, to arrange a visit or send email updates.

Sending my Best Wishes,

Cindy Haq , MD
From patient care to provider wellness, Integrative Medicine Program residents help us see things differently.

**Looking back at 2017-18:**

**Track graduate:** Congratulations to graduating R3, Sara Etemad, MD, who passed her final exam and earned the coveted ACIM Certificate of Completion!

**IM elective month:** IMR residents take part in a variety of experiences during IM elective, such as working with Integrative Physicians, Naturopathic Doctors, an Acupuncturist, a Dietitian, and a Healing Touch Nurse; visiting the UCI Laboratory for Mind-Body Signaling and Energy Research, shadowing clinical instructors at the Acupuncture and Chiropractic clinics at Southern California University of Health Sciences.

**8 week MBSR course** – IMR residents learn a variety of mindfulness meditation skills during this 8 week course offered by Samueli Center for Integrative Medicine. Non-IMR track residents are welcome to take it as well – let us know!

**Integrative Conference attendance:** Six IMR residents attended the Scripps Evidence Based Supplement conference in Feb, 2018 and came back to give 5 minute “bullet” presentation summaries to of their learning highlights to all residents at Thursday didactic conference.

**Junior faculty role in medical student Culinary Medicine course** – IM Track residents participated as junior faculty for this healthy cooking class during the fall and spring, and assisted as organizers for the residency cooking competition.

**Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine Faculty Development Conference presentations** – Sadaf Sareshwala, Linda Lin and Gloria Lu attended this 2 day conference, where they gave a wonderful mini-TED talk about health and wellness.

**Monthly IMR Track meetings** have included a variety of activities, including OMT workshop, supplements scavenger hunt, IM journal club presentations and sampling of mind-body apps.

**Group Acupuncture Clinic** at the FHC SA on Friday mornings was started in December, 2017, and is fully booked out for several months! Thanks to everyone who has referred patients!

**Looking ahead:**

**IM Track Graduates:** Congratulations and best wishes to Christine Chon, Ruby Gonzalez, Gloria Lu, Cat Nguyen, Mahsa Rezaei, and Jim Suchy!

**Welcome to our new Integrative Medicine faculty, Shea Suskin, MD!** She is currently a ACIM Integrative Medicine Fellow, and will be helping Dr. Kilgore with a number of teaching and program development opportunities.

**Culinary Medicine and Healthy Cooking** – the medical student elective will continue next year, expanding into both basic and advance classes, and once the new FHC Teaching Kitchen is in place (hopefully late summer 2018), new patient classes and provider trainings will be launched, utilizing the new Kitchen.
The PRIME-LC Residency Track Experience - Building our Program's Foundation Starting with the Community

Looking back on 2017-2018
Visit to the US-Mexico Border:
PRIME-LC residents visited the US-Mexico border led by the community organization Border Angels. The trip offered an up close and personal experience of understanding immigration issues including the history of where many of the patients from our own clinic began their journey. In addition, the team had the opportunity to visit a local day labor camp where they were able to meet and learn about the experiences and challenges facing undocumented immigrants.

The Coalition: PRIME-LC residents visited one of our community partners, the Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers. The visit provided the residents with an understanding of their own FQHC clinic at UC Irvine including its benefits and challenges.

LGBT Center of Orange County: Only a few blocks from our UC Irvine Family Health Center, the PRIME-LC residents received a tour of the organization’s facilities and learned about issues pertaining to the LGBTQI community. We are currently working on developing a partnership to provide resident-led clinical services to their patient population.

Department of Chicano/Latino Studies: In partnership with the UCI Department of Chicano/Latino Studies, the PRIME-LC residents were provided readings and presentations discussed with Professor and Latino Health expert, Belinda Campos, PhD. Topics included immigrant access to health care, inequality in health systems, gender, sexuality, and Latino family dynamics.

Homeboy Industries: PRIME-LC residents traveled to Los Angeles, CA, to visit the headquarters of Homeboy Industries, one of the largest gang intervention programs in the nation. We are currently in discussions to place PRIME-LC residents through rotations to learn and become certified in tattoo removal.

Looking Ahead:
PRIME-LC Track Graduates: We send our sincerest congratulations to Dr. Jeffrey Arroyo and Dr. Linh Nguyen!

Dr. Linh Nguyen will serve at an FQHC as a new faculty member at the Family Health Centers in San Diego, CA.

Dr. Jeffrey Arroyo will join the PRIME-LC Residency faculty team as the new PRIME-LC Track Faculty Advisor.

Dr. Yasser Giron’s Departure: Although we are saddened by the recent departure of former PRIME-LC Residency Co-Director, Dr. Yasser Giron, he has agreed to continue to work with the PRIME-LC as a volunteer consultant serving as the new PRIME-LC Residency Track Community Service and Engagement Coordinator.

Dr. Marco Angulo will join us as a volunteer faculty member: He is the current Chief Medical Officer of Serve the People Community Health Center and is graduate of both the PRIME-LC School of Medicine and PRIME-LC Residency Track. Dr. Angulo will join us as the PRIME-LC Residency Track Community Service and Engagement Coordinator.

Thank you:
David Adler, MD
Jeffrey Arroyo, MD
Katherine De Azambuja, MD
Dylan Hanami, MD
Maria Kim, MD
Timothy Lee, MD
Shannon Melcher, MD
Linh Nguyen, MD
Laetitia Truong, MD
Edgar Ureno Garcia, MD
Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Susie Kim — Class of 2008

**Background:** I grew up in Redlands, CA. I went to college at UCR for the biomedical sciences major they offered at that time. This was a program where they selected 24 biomedical science students at the end of the first 3 years that would be a part of the UCLA medical school class. Hence my medical school was UCLA (David Geffen School of Medicine).

**Where do you currently work?** I currently work at UC Irvine Health Medical Group at their new Tustin site which is an UCI outpatient primary care and multispecialty site. It also has urgent care and diagnostic testing including laboratory and radiology services. I work as an outpatient family physician. I diagnose/manage/treat chronic medical conditions, but also see patients with acute concerns like infections or recent injuries. A large part of what I do is preventive medicine which is usually addressed during physicals via screening tests and vaccination updates. I like to do some minor office procedures, including colposcopy, IUD insertions, shave biopsies, skin tag removals, incision & drainage of abscesses, steroid injections, and liquid nitrogen treatments.

**What was the biggest adjustment from residency to the “real world?”** The biggest adjustment from residency to the "real world" was making decisions without any supervision. There is no senior resident or attending watching over you and helping you make decisions. That being said, this adjustment is more likely the newness of this situation and the transition occurs rapidly and smoothly.

**Favorite Memory?** My favorite memories from my time in the residency program are definitely the times spent with my co-residents. The shared laughter and pain of similar experiences definitely bonded us together. The residency retreats stand out in my memory. My particular class was close so we often spent time with each other outside of work.

**Advice to our new interns?** My advice to new interns would be to learn as much as possible with the intention for practical application of their training. Remember to keep the big picture in mind when caring for the patient. Also, try to have fun because it does go by fast and some of your favorite memories will be from that time!

Faculty Spotlight:
Jaesu Han, MD

**Where did you go to medical school and do residency?** UC Davis for medical school and UC Davis for combined Family Medicine and Psychiatry residency.

**How long have you been teaching?** 16 years.

**What do you enjoy most about teaching residents?** Observing the growing confidence as they learn from mistakes and gain skills.

**How do you de-stress?** Now that we moved to Huntington Beach, I love to ride my bike along the beach with my family.

**Any hobbies?** Along with watching my favorite football team Liverpool FC on the weekends, I enjoy singing karaoke and playing inline hockey with my friends.

**What is your favorite restaurant?** Oh my, too many Asian restaurants to count in the Garden Grove area. I love trying a new one each week!

**Do you have any words of wisdom for our residents?** Be curious about who your patients are and striving to be, not just the diseases they suffer from. You will be rewarded with better outcomes and a more fulfilling career.

Resident Spotlight:
Renee Kreidl, MD
Class of 2019

**Background:** I grew up in Wheaton, IL, a suburb of Chicago. I attended Loyola University Chicago for undergrad and Rush College in Chicago for medical school.

**Favorite Restaurant?** Cream Pan Bakery in Old Town Tustin.

**How do you distress?** I meditate and learn more about food and cooking. I’m currently taking an online course in healthy-mindful eating in my free time. Also, dance!

**What is your favorite residency moment?** Karaoke during retreat!

**What is your biggest adjustment since medical school?** Having to move from Illinois and not having public transportation. I didn’t own a car until coming to CA.

**Word of wisdom for our incoming interns?** 1)Take care of yourself. 2) Breathe. Seriously. When people are stressed, their breathing becomes shallower + irregular. Do your body some good and take some mindful breaths. 3) Buena Suerte!
Family Medicine Residency
Class of 2018

Jeffrey Arroyo, MD
Quality Improvement Chief
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA & Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

Christine Chon, MD
University of Washington School of Medicine

Ruby Gonzalez, MD
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Gloria Lu, MD
Administrative Chief
Ohio State University College of Medicine

Catherine Nguyen, MD
Creighton University School of Medicine

Linh Nguyen, MD
Academic Chief
University of California, Irvine School of Medicine

Andrew Nobe, MD
Clinic Chief
University of Vermont College of Medicine

Mahsa Rezaei, MD
Chicago Medical School Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine & Science

James Suchy, MD
University of California, Irvine School of Medicine
Dr. Jeffrey Arroyo

**Background:** I'm from West Covina, CA.

**Hobbies:** Basketball.

**Favorite FHC Moment:** Being excited to see patients I have worked with since intern year.

**Favorite Residency Memory:** R2 Retreat and mindfulness training with Dr. Kilgore.

**Shout-outs:** To my wife Nancy who always supports me, and my beautiful daughter Emma.

**Post Residency Plans:** Academic Medicine.

**Advice to incoming residents:** Never be afraid to ask questions. Your senior residents and attendings are always there to help you.

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Dr. Christine Chon

**Background:** I’m from the Pacific NW, Seattle. Prior to medical school, I taught ESL to international/adult students in New York City, South Korea, and Japan.

**Hobbies:** I love playing the piano, swimming, and hiking, finding good coffee shops, traveling, and spending time with my family.

**Favorite FHC Moment:** When my patients thanked me for taking care of them.

**Favorite Residency Memory:** Too many! Tea time with my co-residents during rounds, spending time with my Integrative Medicine class at the Scripps conference in San Diego.

**Shout-outs:** Dr. Ho for being such a wonderful and caring program director. We will all dearly miss her!

**Post Residency Plans:** Work at Kaiser in Seattle and continue to work with the underserved, marginalized population in the Seattle area.

**Advice to incoming residents:** Time will go by fast so cherish the moments with co-residents/faculty during the residency. Support each other! Learn as much as possible.
Dr. Ruby Gonzalez

**Background:** I’m an Angelino at heart growing up in East Los Angeles and El Monte, CA.

**Hobbies:** Spending time with family, traveling, and dancing bachata with my husband. ❤️

**Favorite FHC Moment:** Joking/laughing with the Medical Assistants (MAs).

**Favorite Residency Memory:** The connections/relationships I’ve made with my patients and co-residents. Specifically, when one of my patients was seeing another specialty in clinic and I happened to see her, so I stopped to say hello and she proceeded to blow me a kiss from the door. It made my day!

**Shout-outs:** To my amazing husband for being so supportive. To my mother and father for their unconditional love. To our amazing attendings that inspire me to be a better physician.

**Post Residency Plans:** Retiring…

**Advice to incoming residents:** Lean on each other and know that you’re not alone during this journey.

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Dr. Gloria Lu

**Background:** I’m from Foster City, CA.

**Hobbies:** Singing, looking for the yummiest foods, being outdoors, and being with friends & family.

**Favorite FHC Moment:** Seeing my continuity patient’s newborn in clinic.

**Favorite Residency Memory:** Slumber party with everyone at our retreat.

**Shout-outs:** All the wonderful faculty, staff, and co-residents. I wouldn’t be here without you all.

**Post Residency Plans:** Per diem until I figure out my next steps.

**Advice to incoming residents:** Don’t be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. You may be pleasantly surprised of what you may gain from doing so.
Dr. Catherine Nguyen

**Background:** I grew up in sunny California in Westminster. I went to UCLA for undergrad. I completed med school at Creighton in Omaha, NE, where I was freezing like a popsicle. I’m ecstatic to be back in SoCal near family, doing my favorite thing – caring for people.

**Hobbies:** Exploring new restaurants, gardens, visiting new cities, and hanging out with family.

**Favorite FHC Moment:** Giving and receiving hugs from my continuity patients. Also, being present through my continuity OB patient’s pregnancy, her delivery, and taking care of both her and her baby. It was such a rewarding experience.

**Favorite Residency Memory:** Residency cooking class 2017. Hanging out with my co-residents at retreat, catching up, and being care-free. Spending the night in L&D workroom with Dr. Vo, waiting for our patients to deliver and finding Dr. Vo asleep on 3 chairs aligned together.

**Shout-outs:** Thank you Dr. Ho for being an amazing role model & always so thoughtful. We feel so well taken care of!

**Post Residency Plans:** Resting and going on a long vacation, then part-time primary care at a group practice in Orange County.

**Advice to incoming residents:** Remember to take care of yourself. Feeling happy and at peace within yourself will allow you to open your heart to care for your patients.

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Dr. Linh Nguyen

**Background:** I’m from Oceanside, CA.

**Hobbies:** Singing Karaoke and jogging.

**Favorite FHC Moment:** When my continuity patient voluntarily opened up about his life story to me.

**Favorite Residency Memory:** Getting to admit my patient to the hospital multiple times and then seeing him again in clinic.

**Shout-outs:** Thank you to my husband, John Hom, for all your love and support throughout the years.

**Post Residency Plans:** Work at an FQHC at the Family Health Centers in San Diego, CA.

**Advice to incoming residents:** If you care, you will do well no matter what.
Dr. Andrew Nobe

Background: I’m an Orange County native.

Hobbies: Basketball, golf, coffee, and wine tasting.

Favorite FHC Moment: Pretending to precept resident presentations with Dr. Hanh Nguyen (before junior precepting was a thing). Giving feedback to Dr. Hann.

Favorite Residency Memory: Relaxing with residents during all 3 retreats. Getting emails from Dr. Ho in the middle of the night and responding back to her immediately. Also, continuity care with patients through clinic, the emergency department, on the wards, and post hospital follow up.

Shout-outs: My senior residents and former staff that have helped train me. My amazing co-residents who support and teach me new things all the time. My mom, dad, brother, and sister who are my consultants in medicine and life.

Post Residency Plans: Sports Medicine Fellowship.

Advice to incoming residents: You are great! You are compassionate! Enjoy the journey!

Dr. Mahsa Rezaei

Background: I am Persian-Azeri from Chicago (Chi-town).

Hobbies: I enjoy cooking and dancing.

Favorite FHC Moment: Seeing my patient in the lobby after a long time, having her remember me, and wanting to give me a hug.

Favorite Residency Memory: Being JFac & getting close to the MAs and getting to know them. Also, residents cooking dinner.

Shout-outs: Dr. Ho for being the best program director and my co-residents for being so supportive throughout the years.

Post Residency Plans: Joining a group practice as a full-time PCP and learning to do yoga professionally.

Advice to incoming residents: Enjoy the journey because it goes by so fast!
**Chief’s Corner**

**Academic Chief: Sadaf Sareshwala, DO**
It is an honor and privilege to be your academic chief next year! Within our program we have a strong culture of scholarship and our lifelong-learner identities. My goal as academic chief is to continue to nurture scholarly growth as we become stronger learners and teachers. This is our time to practice, make mistakes, learn, and continue to practice again. Through my role as chief, I will strive to create a supportive environment in which we can blossom to our full potentials as doctors — professionally and personally. I look forward to working with every one of you on our joint journeys to be the best that we can be!

**Administrative Chief: Kevin Riutzel, DO**
I’m excited to be serving as the administrative chief for the 2018-2019 year! My role will be to schedule our in-patient weekend service, back-up schedule, and the Lestonnac clinic schedule. I will also represent us at our wellness committee meetings. I will be working to find a scheduling system that makes our lives easier and more efficient so that scheduling is one less of a stressor for our residents. As a chief resident in general, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me for any issue and I’ll help find what you need or direct you to the appropriate resource. Looking forward to a great year!!

**Clinic Chief: Tammy Chew, MD**
Welcome to our UCI family! I am excited to work with you as your clinic chief this coming year. I will strive to improve clinic to allow us to provide the highest quality of care that our population deserves. As part of our residency family, you will build lifelong friendships and memorable experiences. Do reach out to me for support -- I will always be here for you!

**Quality Improvement Chief: Timothy Lee, MD**
Hi everyone! I’m looking forward to working with all of you to bring safe and high quality changes for our patients, the clinic, our program and - hopefully - our own lives. Residency can be tough, but one thing that kept me going the past 2 years has been my belief that my voice is heard and that improvement comes when I engage, rather than passively watch. My hope as QI chief is to help give a voice to our patients and to you as the provider. We’re stakeholders here and have faith that we can make lasting impact if we’re willing to dig in and invest. Doing QI projects and filling out surveys can sometimes be tedious, but it’s all for a bigger purpose and I really hope we can keep our eyes on the prize together! Whether by filling out reports or speaking up at meetings, we all play a part in being the change we want to see in the world (kudos Gandhi). Welcome to our new R1s, it’s going to be a great year!

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**Dr. James Suchy**

Background: Born in New Jersey, but raised in Orange County, CA.

Hobbies: Triathlons, yoga, hiking, and spending time with loved ones.

Favorite FHC Moment: Making personal connections with my patients and of course drawing abscesses in minor surgery clinic.

Favorite Residency Memory: Coming to the realization that you don’t have to know all the answers, just where to go to look for them (Thanks, Dr. Ho!)

Shout-outs: Faculty for being supportive of my growth as a physician. Residents for being friends to share the ups and downs with. My girlfriend and parents for being encouraging and loving.

Post Residency Plans: Sports Medicine Fellowship at OHSU in Portland, Oregon.

Advice to incoming residents: Take advantage of the learning environment that is residency. Now is your chance to ask questions and fill gaps in your knowledge because after residency it becomes harder. Also, don’t forget to enforce and cultivate the activities and relationships that make you feel balanced.
Welcome to our Family Medicine Residency
Class of 2021

Stephen Chang
Rush Medical College

Asma Husain
Ohio State University COM

Audreyandra Imansjah
Touro University—California

Vincente Lam
UC Riverside SOM

Danny Ngo
East Virginia Medical School

Ekta Patel
Boston University SOM

Raina Shah
Touro University—Nevada

Jenny Truong
Oakland University William Beaumont SOM

Laura Zavala
University of Minnesota Medical School

Spotlight on Medical Assistant: Veronica Monarez

Hometown? I grew up in the city of Lynwood.

Tell us about yourself: I am from a large family, I have 5 sisters and 3 brothers. I am the 8th one :) I loooove cats. I’m married and have 4 beautiful girls. I like to try and cook new recipes. I never settle for less and I feel that I’m a reliable person and can be counted on.

Who is your regular attending that you work with? Dr. Elana Craemer

How long have you worked for UCI? I have been with UCI for 14 years.

Favorite part of working with the residents? The best part of working with the residents is making new friends and guiding them through their residency.

What is your funniest FHC-SA moment? Calling a patient (Maria Esther) MA Esther (Ask Janet!)

Advice for our new residents? Don’t doubt your M.A.– well depends who it is! Haha!
Esther Ho, MD, Residency Program Director

It has been a phenomenal year for our residency program and department. We have had outstanding curricular changes including a revamped R1 orientation, increased and early clinical experiences of Sports Med, Women’s Health, Prenatal Care, Mental Health, Radiology, and surgical procedures including Lumps and Bumps, as well as significant core FM faculty presence in our weekly Thursday didactics with nearly all faculty overseeing at least one curricular series. Our school outreach program to include clinical services and health education to the Centralia elementary schools has expanded with our Nicholas Endowment grant award. We have also been immensely blessed to welcome Dr. Jaesu Han who is double-boarded in FM and Psychiatry, to our faculty, and then Dr. Cynthia Haq as our department chair. Most importantly, we grew as a family—whether it was through surprising our FHC staff with Christmas stockings, decorating the resident’s now Zen room at FHC, holding our first mid-intern and mid-residency celebration dinners for R1s and R2s respectively, coming up with our personal wellness action plan after a sustainable compassion training session led by Dr. Haq and karaokeing through the night during our annual retreat, holding our first multi-site scavenger hunt for the big reveal on Match Day, having another delicious cook-off monthly dinner, wishing our best to Dr. Yasser Giron in his next adventure, or sharing our everyday and life changing challenges and successes, we have forged and deepened lifelong friendships.

And as I enjoy the exhilarating journey with you this year, I’m facing the most bittersweet of emotions as time draws closer for me to bid farewell to UC Irvine, with my family’s pending move to Dallas, Texas this August. My journey into academic medicine has been one of surprises, and fulfilling beyond anything I would have dreamed of because of each of you. The irony of being considered an educator is that I have learned from and with every person, whether it be student, resident, graduate, staff, or faculty, and thus have been given more than I ever could give. I am indebted to you all and UCI for the amazing adventures I have had the honor of being part of in the past almost 14 years. While I am incredibly sad to leave our UCI family, I know that our department and program will continue to soar under Dr. Haq as our chair and Dr. Dow as our incoming PD, and that our calling as family physicians and community advocates will keep us together in spirit no matter where each of us are. Thank you for your inspiration, encouragement, humor and love -- please keep in touch and remember to visit in Dallas!

With hugs and much love,

Esther

Betzy Salcedo, MD, Assistant Residency Program Director

I will miss all of your faces dearly. I know you will all do amazing things in your careers. Always keep in mind why you are doing this, and how much you have accomplished. Do you remember how much you knew when you were an intern and how much you know now? Please know that you can always call, text, or email me at anytime. We are all here for you. Good luck!

Keep in touch :)

Joana Godoy, Residency Coordinator

My first year as a coordinator has been filled with so much learning. The more I learn about your training process the more I admire your perseverance and commitment to serving the underserved. I am extremely proud to be amongst some of the most compassionate individuals. To our graduating residents, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Take with you one main experience that impacted you and use it as a motivational reminder for why you chose to be a physician, an advocate, and a leader. To our current residents, keep striving! And lastly, welcome to our family Class of 2021!

Cheers to another year,

Joana
Thank You to Our Faculty, Residents, and Staff